

History and Geography Words



Historic Turning Points

Leaders Then and Now

See the USA

Wonders of the World

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PREVIEW

Test your knowledge of the vocabulary skills, concepts, and terms you will study in this unit. Answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Write **T** or **F** to show whether each statement is *true* or *false*.

1. ____ A *democracy* is usually headed by a *tyrant*.
2. ____ *Eighty degrees* can also be written 80° .
3. ____ The words *climate* and *weather* are antonyms.
4. ____ The words *boundaries* and *borders* are synonyms.
5. ____ The adjective form of *patriot* is *patriotic*.
6. ____ A *civil war* is fought between a country and its overseas colonies.
7. ____ *Battlefield*, *freedom*, and *bloodshed* are all compound words.
8. ____ In the word *midnight*, the suffix *mid-* means “in the middle of.”

SPELLING

Circle the correctly spelled word in each group.

1. colunist collonist colonist
2. empiror emperor emperer
3. Massachusetts massachusetts Masachusetes
4. goverment govargument government

ANSWERS: TRUE OR FALSE? 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. F 8. F
 SPELLING: 1. colonist 2. emperor 3. Massachusetts 4. government

GLOSSARY

A *glossary* is a list of unusual or specialized words from a certain field of knowledge. Following are some important words that relate to history and geography.

canyon a long, narrow valley with high cliffs on each side, often with a stream running through it

civil war war between sections or groups of people of the same nation

climate the average weather conditions in a certain region over a period of years

coast land along the sea

colonist one of a group of people who settle in a distant land, but remain under the rule of the home country

czar the title of any of the former emperors of Russia

democracy government in which the people hold the ruling power

empire a group of countries or territories under the rule of one government or person

jungle a tropical land thickly covered with trees and other plants and usually filled with animals

longitude distance measured in degrees east and west of an imaginary line running from the North Pole to the South Pole

North Pole the spot that is farthest north on the Earth

patriot a person who shows great love and loyalty toward his or her own country

prime meridian the imaginary line from which longitude is measured both east and west. Located at 0° longitude, it passes through Greenwich, England.

regent a person chosen to rule while a king or queen is absent, sick, or too young to take the throne

serfs farm workers who, almost like slaves, belong to a landowner

South Pole the spot that is farthest south on the Earth

terrain ground or area of land

tyrant a cruel or unjust ruler who has complete power

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Complete each sentence with a word from the glossary. Use the other words in the sentence to help you decide which word to add. Check the dictionary definition if you're still not sure.

1. Year after year, the flowing river made the _____ deeper.
2. The ruler was a power-hungry _____ who demanded total control of his people.
3. The rocky, uneven _____ made travel by vehicle impossible.
4. Because the new king was only 10 years old, a _____ would head the government for several years.
5. When powerful families from two different regions claimed power, _____ broke out.
6. Around the whole Earth, there are 360° of _____.
7. The nobleman was a wealthy landowner who had many _____ farming his lands.

WORD FORMS

Add vowels (*a, e, i, o, u*) to complete a different form of some words from the glossary. Use context clues to help.

1. Pollutants in the air can cause a cl__m__t__c change in a region.
2. The __mp__r__r ruled his vast lands from the capital city.
3. C__ __st__l winds often bring rain from the west.
4. He felt it was his p__tr__ __t__c duty to vote in every election.
5. Massachusetts was one of the 13 original c__l__n__s.
6. P__l__r explorers found conditions unlike anywhere else on Earth.

SCRAMBLED WORDS

First unscramble the words from the glossary. Then solve the crossword puzzle with words that complete the sentences.

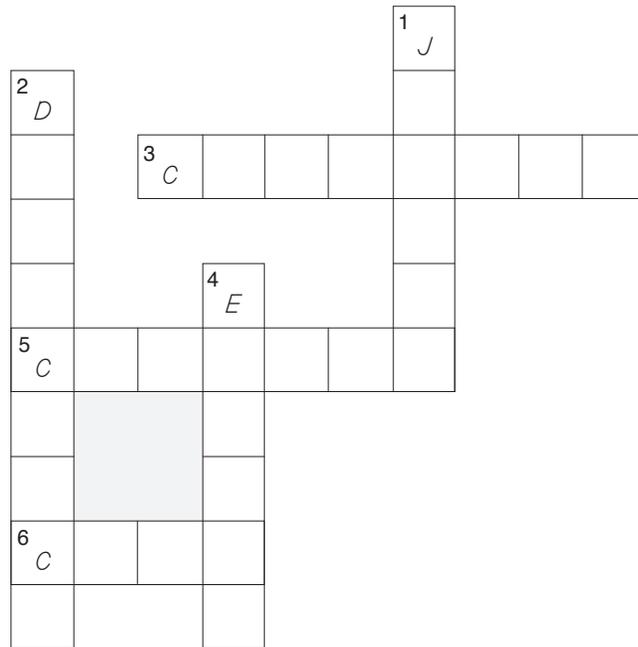
NOOLTISC _____	MEIRPE _____
GLUNJE _____	CAMECYDRO _____
LICTAME _____	ZRAC _____

ACROSS

3. Although living across the sea, every American ____ had to follow the laws of England.
5. The arctic ____ is so cold that some lakes never thaw.
6. For nearly 20 years, the ____ ruled all of Russia.

DOWN

1. Huge vines hung from the trees in the hot, steamy ____.
2. The founding fathers of the United States wanted a ____ in which every citizen had a voice in government.



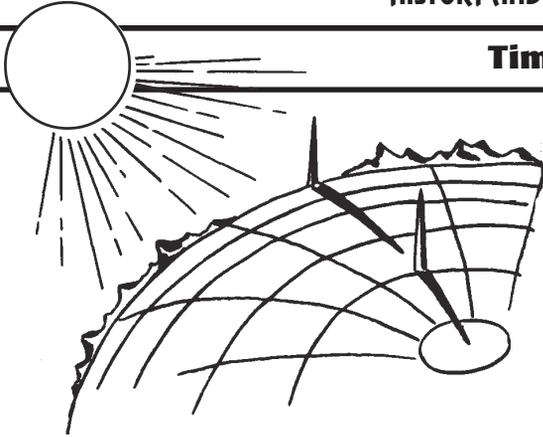
4. The ruler added to his ____ by conquering many small tribes.

WORD HISTORY

Some glossary words have origins in other languages. Write a letter to match each **boldface** word with its origin. If necessary, check a dictionary.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. ____ canyon | a. from the Latin word <i>caesar</i> , meaning “emperor” |
| 2. ____ czar | b. from the Latin word <i>servus</i> , meaning “slave” |
| 3. ____ democracy | c. from ancient Greek words meaning “the people” and “to rule” |
| 4. ____ empire | d. from the Latin word <i>imperium</i> , meaning “command, authority, realm” |
| 5. ____ serf | e. from the Spanish word <i>cañon</i> , meaning “a pipe,” “a tube,” or “a gorge” |
| 6. ____ terrain | f. from the French word <i>terra</i> , meaning “earth” |

Time Zones



“Good morning,” Maria said when she telephoned her cousin Sam in New York. “It’s already a balmy Saturday here in California!”

“Good *morning?*” her cousin laughed. “Are you kidding? I’m just about to eat lunch!”

Maria had forgotten all about the three-hour time difference between the west and east coasts of the United States. When it is 9:00 A.M. in California, it is 12:00 noon in New York.

There is a geographical reason why clocks in different parts of the world show different times. Time is measured by the sun. As the Earth rotates, the sun shines on different parts of it. The side of the Earth facing the sun experiences daytime while the side turned away from the sun experiences night. Every 24 hours, the Earth completes a rotation. That means there are 24

hours in a day—and there is a time zone for each one of those hours.

The time zones closely follow the lines of longitude. An imaginary line called the *prime meridian* goes from the North Pole to the South Pole. It passes through Greenwich, England and is the starting point for measuring longitude. Longitude is measured in degrees, so the prime meridian has been designated 0° longitude. There are 12 time zones east of the prime meridian and 12 west of it. Another imaginary line, called the International Date Line, marks 180° longitude—halfway around the Earth. When it is noon at the prime meridian, it is midnight at 180° longitude.

The United States has eight standard time zones. The time in each zone is one hour different from its neighboring zones. To the west of each zone, times are earlier. To the east of each zone, times are later. Sam lives on Eastern Standard Time. Maria lives on Pacific Standard Time—three time zones to the west. That’s why it is 9:00 for her when it is noon for Sam.

WORD SEARCH

1. What 12-letter adjective from the reading means “having to do with the study of the Earth’s surface and natural features”? g _____
2. What four-letter noun from the reading means “an area or region that is set apart from the parts around it in some special way”? z _____
3. What nine-letter noun means “a distance east and west measured by an imaginary line running from the North Pole to the South Pole”? l _____
4. What two words name a line of longitude that is measured as 0°? p _____ m _____
5. What names are given to the spots that are farthest north and south on Earth? N _____ P _____ and S _____ P _____

ANALOGIES

Analogies are statements of relationship. To come up with the missing word, you must figure out the relationship between the first two words. Then complete each analogy with a word from the reading that shows the same relationship.

1. *East coast* is to *west coast* as *North Pole* is to S _____ P _____.
2. *Lines of latitude* are to *horizontal* as *lines of* l _____ are to *vertical*.
3. *Everything* is to *nothing* as *nighttime* is to d _____.
4. *Breakfast* is to *morning* as l _____ is to *noon*.
5. *Plus* is to + as *degree* is to _____.

EASILY CONFUSED WORDS

Circle the word that correctly completes each sentence.

1. When (it’s / its) 3:00 P.M. in Oregon, it is 6:00 P.M. in New York.
2. The Earth never stops rotating on (it’s / its) axis.
3. “I’m (already / all ready) eating lunch!” exclaimed Sam.
4. The seven travelers were (already / all ready) to board the airplane.

SYNONYMS

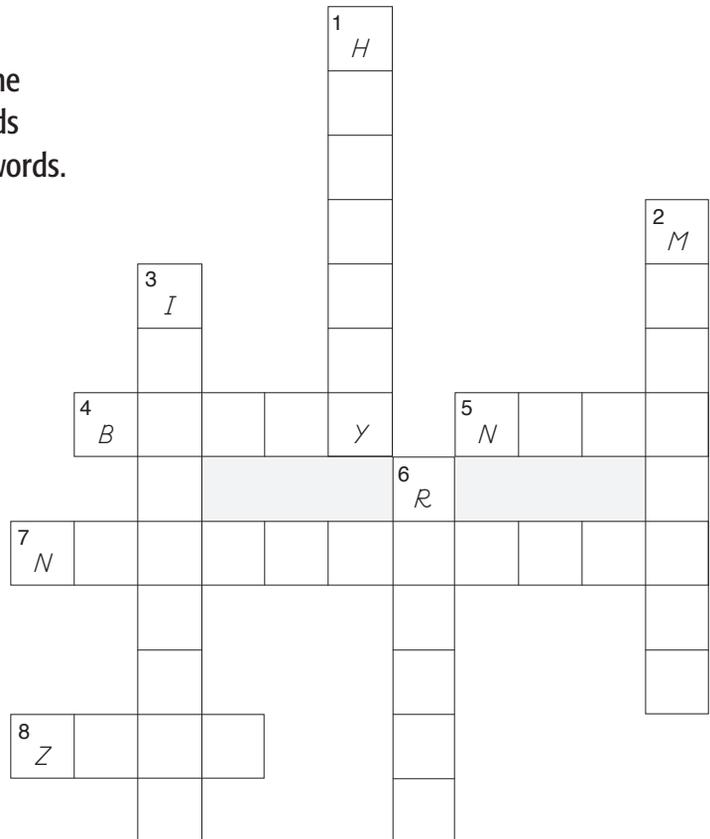
Complete the puzzle with words from the reading. Clue words are *synonyms* (words with a similar meaning) of the answer words.

ACROSS

4. warm
5. 12:00 P.M.
7. bordering
8. cipher

DOWN

1. midpoint
2. 12:00 A.M.
3. unreal
6. turn



MULTIPLE-MEANING WORDS

Many words have different meanings, depending on their context. Read the two definitions of each word. Then circle a letter to show the meaning *used in the reading*. Finally, use that meaning of the word in a sentence of your own.

1. a. **coast:** land along the sea b. **coast:** to slide downhill

YOUR SENTENCE: _____

2. a. **Earth:** the planet we live on b. **earth:** soil or ground

YOUR SENTENCE: _____

3. a. **degrees:** units used to measure temperature
- b. **degrees:** units used to measure angles and arcs of circles

YOUR SENTENCE: _____

4. a. **standard:** something set up as a model to use for comparison
- b. **standard:** a flag or banner of a military group or government

YOUR SENTENCE: _____

4. The Inca had amazing roads, but they had not invented the (wheel / we'll).
5. Cuzco was the (capital / capitol) city of the empire.
6. Each stone fit together like a (piece / peace) of a jigsaw puzzle.

COMPOUND WORDS

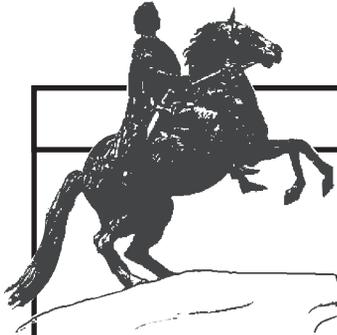
Write a compound word from the reading to complete each sentence.

1. Artisans who craft tools and goods are called _____.
2. An area that is banned or forbidden is said to be _____.
3. A paved surface used for travel is called a _____.
4. The land bordering a traveler's route may be called the _____.
5. _____ are regions that are lower than the land around them.

SUFFIXES MEANING "ONE WHO"

Words that end in *-or*, *-er*, or *-eer* often name people, such as *doctors*, *hikers*, and *pioneers*, who "do something." Complete each sentence with a word from the reading that ends with one of these suffixes. Check a dictionary if you need help.

1. An _____ plans and designs roads, bridges, buildings, and such.
2. A _____ erects buildings and other structures.
3. A _____ tills the soil before planting, growing, and harvesting crops.
4. One who journeys from place to place is a _____.
5. In all ages and places, _____ fight in wars.

**Czar Peter the Great**

In the 17th century, two boys were ready to inherit the throne of Russia. The czar had died, and his grandsons—Ivan and Peter—were next in line to rule. Since both were young, their sister Sophia served as regent.

Peter spent his youth in the countryside. There, the ambitious, energetic boy launched an old boat and learned to sail. As a teenager he lived in the capital city of Moscow. Its residents and their European clothing and food were fascinating to the boy from the country.

Peter grew to be a giant of a man—nearly seven feet tall! By age 17, he knew that he wanted the throne. He forced his sister Sophia to resign. Ten years later, his brother Ivan died. Peter became sole ruler of Russia, a country that had become the largest in the world. Russia had, however, kept itself isolated. It had fallen far behind the West in science and education. Peter planned to change that in a big way.

Setting sail for Europe, he became the first Russian czar to travel overseas. When Czar Peter returned

to Russia, he brought weapons and scientific tools. He also brought artisans, engineers, and soldiers to teach his people European skills. Two barbers were included in the group. Why? Peter had decided that his noblemen must adopt western fashions. He ordered them to shave their long beards and get rid of their flowing robes. Russian subjects did as Peter ordered. They knew their czar was a tyrant with a bad temper! He could be very cruel to anyone who did not agree with him.

Czar Peter built the city of St. Petersburg. It would replace Moscow as the capital. He called the European-styled city his “Window on the West” and declared that it would open Russia to the world. Then Peter claimed a new title. He became *Peter the Great, Emperor and Father of the Fatherland*.

With his European-style reforms, Peter brought Russia into the modern age. He extended its borders and power. Still, most Russians remained poor serfs, tied to the land of the nobles they served. Peter’s “great” reforms did nothing to improve the lives of the masses.